



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE  
10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626  
Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 29, 2018

Contact: Eric Sommer  
(800) 835-2612

## PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2018

### MONTANA HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Montana growers intend to plant 115,000 acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2018, unchanged from last year's plantings, according to the March 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The area expected to be seeded to **oats**, at 70,000 acres, is unchanged from a year ago. Growers intend to plant 720,000 acres of **barley** in 2018, down 50,000 acres from last year's actual plantings. **All wheat** acreage is expected to total 4.95 million acres for 2018. **Winter wheat** seeded last fall for harvest in 2018 is estimated at 1.60 million acres, down 150,000 acres from the 2017 crop, and the lowest plantings since 1997. Growers intend to seed 850,000 acres of **Durum wheat** this year, down 40,000 acres from last year. Growers intend to seed 2.50 million acres of **spring wheat** this year, unchanged from last year. **Hay** producers in the State intend to harvest 2.70 million acres this year. This is up 150,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2017. Montana **canola** producers intend to plant 145,000 acres in 2018, down 10,000 acres from 2017. **Flaxseed** producers intend to plant 45,000 acres in 2018, down 7,000 acres from last year. The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to be up 200 acres from last year's actual plantings to 43,100 acres. **Dry edible bean** acreage is expected to total 315,000 acres, up 15 percent from the 275,000 acres planted in 2017. All **garbanzo beans** (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 308,000 acres, up 39,000 acres from 2017. **Lentil** acres planted for 2018 are expected to total 530,000 acres, down 200,000 acres from last year. All **dry edible pea** area planted is expected to total 390,000 acres, down 135,000 acres from last year. **Austrian winter pea** area planted is expected to total 15,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2017.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn** planted area for all purposes in 2018 is estimated at 88.0 million acres, down 2 percent or 2.14 million acres from last year. Compared with last year, planted acreage is expected to be down or unchanged in 33 of the 48 estimating States.

Area seeded to **oats** for the 2018 crop year is estimated at 2.72 million acres, up 5 percent from 2017. If realized, United States planted area will be the fourth lowest on record.

Producers intend to seed 2.29 million acres of **barley** for the 2018 crop year, down 8 percent from the previous year. If realized, seeded area for barley will be the lowest on record for the United States.

**All wheat** planted area for 2018 is estimated at 47.3 million acres, up 3 percent from 2017. This represents the second lowest all wheat planted area on record since records began in 1919. The 2018 **winter wheat** planted area, at 32.7 million acres, is up slightly from both last year and the previous estimate. Of this total, about 23.2 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 5.85 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.64 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to **other spring wheat** for 2018 is estimated at 12.6 million acres, up 15 percent from 2017. Of this total, about 12.1 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. **Durum** planted area for 2018 is estimated at 2.00 million acres, down 13 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 53.7 million acres of **all hay** in 2018, down less than 1 percent from 2017. If realized, this will represent the second lowest total hay harvested area since 1908, only behind 2016.

**Canola** producers intend to plant 2.08 million acres in 2018, down just 1,000 acres from last year's record high planted area.

Area planted to **flaxseed** in 2018 is estimated at 225,000 acres, down 78,000 acres, or 26 percent less than was planted in 2017.

Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2018 crop year is estimated at 1.11 million acres, down 2 percent from 2017. Intended plantings are below the previous year in 6 of the 11 estimating States.

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Area planted to **dry beans** in 2018 is expected to be 2.03 million acres, down 3 percent from the previous season. Expected area planted for **all chickpeas** is 665,000 acres, up 7 percent from last season. **Small chickpea intentions**, at 185,500 acres, are 3 percent above 2017, while **large chickpeas**, at 479,500 acres, are expected to increase 9 percent from the previous year. If realized, small, large, and all chickpea acreage will be record high. Six of the 11 estimating States expect an increase in total dry bean planted acres from last year.

Area planted to **lentils** for the 2018 crop year is expected to total 791,000 acres, down 28 percent from 2017. If realized, this will be the third largest planted area on record.

Area planted to **dry edible peas** for the 2018 crop year is expected to total 908,000 acres, down 20 percent from last year. Despite the decline in plantings, if realized, this will be the sixth highest planted area since records began in 1929.

Intended planted area for **Austrian winter peas** in 2018 is estimated at 19,000 acres, down 28 percent from 2017.

For a full copy of the *Prospective Plantings* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).